

[CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 7 of 1876.]

## REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR

The Week ending the 12th February, 1876.

THE *Rājsháhí Samáchár*, of the 21st January, dwells in its opening editorial on the gradually increasing difficulty of earning a livelihood at the present time :—That we are obliged to look to foreign manufacture for our needles and matches is a more painful circumstance than even our subjection to a foreign rule. It does not seem that without our own independent exertions we shall ever be freed from this miserable condition. We cannot agree with those who think that a change of administration will put an end to all their miseries. It need not appear strange that in reference to its foreign subjects the British system of government is not entirely free from injustice. We should consider that other sovereigns treat their foreign subjects in a more oppressive way than the British Government. In spite of this the way of self-improvement is not entirely closed to us. It would be well for the country if, instead of indulging in constant complaints, and producing speeches and newspaper articles which end in nothing, its educated men would bestir themselves and seek to open out new fields of employment in agriculture and manufacture. There is abundance of raw material in India for the purposes of the latter, while there are considerable advantages possessed by the people for developing the agriculture of the country.

RAJSHAHÍ  
SAMACHAR,  
January 21st, 1876.

2. Adverting to the rumoured retirement of Sir W. Muir, and the suggestions made by some of the newspapers as to the appointment of his successor, the *Rungpur Dik Prakásh*, of the 27th January, would prefer the appointment of Sir T. Mádhava Ráo to that of Justice Phear; for though both are men of ability and competent to discharge the duties of the office, still the latter is not yet known to the public as possessing any remarkable aptitude for finance, while the merit of the former has been proved, and he is well-known for his successful management of the finances of Travankur and Baroda. It moreover behoves Government to act according to its liberal professions, and confer the appointment on a native in reference to whom the plea of incompetency cannot be advanced. Sir Mádhava, with the aid of a few European subordinates, would be fully able to manage the finances of the empire.

RUNGPUR DIK  
PRAKASH,  
January 27th, 1876.

3. The *Suhrid*, of the 1st February, remarks :—The news of Lord Northbrook's retirement will doubtless cause sorrow to every native of India. He took charge of the administration at a time when the acts of his predecessor had filled the country with discontent, which it would have been indeed difficult to remove had not the government been placed in the hands of such a wise and considerate man as Lord Northbrook. Although the benefit and peace we had expected to enjoy under his rule have not come up to our expectations, still India is justified in expressing sorrow at the news

SUHRID,  
February 1st, 1876.

of his retirement. He has, indeed, made serious blunders in the Baroda affair, and even in connection with the royal visit, which was said to have been courted by himself to wipe out all unfavourable impressions regarding his administration, but in the former he has not followed the policy of annexation. It was perhaps his endeavour to make India happy and leave a lasting fame behind him, and if he has not succeeded in his efforts it is owing more to the unluckiness of the country than to any fault of his.

SOMA PRAKASH,  
February 1st, 1876.

4. The *Soma Prakásh*, of the 1st February, writes the following on the promotion of Pandit Mahesh Chandra Nyáyaratna to the fourth grade of the Educational Service :—There is now observed a change in the fortunes of Sanskrit after a long time. It suffered extremely during the administration of Sir George Campbell, but now Sir Richard Temple has honored it to a degree which was not even dreamt of before. His Honor has given us great gratification by promoting Pandit Mahesh Chandra Nyáyaratna of the Sanskrit College, an able and deserving man, to the last grade of the Educational Service. Ignorant of the principles of social science, Sir George Campbell wanted to abolish the extensive use of Urdu, and what wonder that he should have sought to make the Bengali language wholly independent of Sanskrit. It is hard to say how long a time must elapse before the injury he has done to Bengali is repaired. There is very little likelihood of Sir Richard Temple's attaining this object, unless arrangements are made for teaching Sanskrit in a more extensive measure in the normal schools.

SOMA PRAKASH.

5. The same paper remarks :—The public has not yet been informed of the result of Sir L. Mallet's interview with Lord Northbrook, though a change is said to have taken place in the views with which the former came out to this country. Sent by the Secretary of State as his own man, an important object would have been attained if he had been able to remain in the country for a few days more, and had himself examined the system of administration followed by Government. The public interests suffer greatly at times from there being two separate parts of the Indian Government, one in England and the other in India. Many a time the importance of a course of action which the Governor-General and his ministers determine to follow, from being on the spot, is not perceived by the Secretary of State, who is far way. One who belongs to his party is confided in and supported by the Secretary of State in all he does ; but extreme confusion ensues when the Viceroy happens to be one of the opposite party. Doubts and apprehensions then begin to wear a serious aspect. A striking instance of this is to be found in the mission of Sir L. Mallet. Perhaps the Secretary of State would never have ventured to insult Lord Northbrook in this way if he were not a member of the Liberal party. If India is to be governed from England, the more the British authorities learn of the true state of the country, the better, and hence it is that we would have preferred to see Sir L. Mallet remain in India for a few days more. He will, however, be remembered for a long time in this country as being the man to whose advent is due the resignation of our present Viceroy.

SOMA PRAKASH.

6. Adverting to the replies given by Mr. Grant Duff to the queries put to him by the editor of the *Contemporary Review* on some important subjects connected with India, the same paper writes the following :—Perhaps in his reply Mr. Grant Duff forgot to add the following remarks. He should have said in the first place that India stands in the position of a mother to England, which is as a suckling to her. Our readers may be surprised to hear what will perhaps appear to them a new comparison, but it is not entirely

new. It can be easily explained. As the mother is obliged to take nothing but the prescribed diet when her child falls sick, and the child depends solely on her milk for its support, so India suffers from starvation or lives on insufficient meals whenever England is afflicted with any war or revolution, and the resources of India alone then become the only means of support to the latter. Secondly, it is the possession of India by the British that makes it so easy to quarrel with the neighbouring powers. If Russia, for instance, were to adopt any measures for the preservation of her own interests in Central Asia, England would immediately offer remonstrances in the name of India. Any movements on the part of Burmah or China are in the same manner made much of, and endeavours have been similarly made to mingle in the quarrel on the occurrence of the insurrection in Herzegovina. India has thus become a convenient cloak to conceal much hatred and ill-feeling.

As to the influence, which according to Mr. Grant Duff, England is said to command owing to her possession of India, we cannot say much. It is known to everybody that England is now no longer to be counted a second class power among the nations of Europe, and that the influence which she at one time possessed in that continent is no more. But what has been the cause of this decline? Mr. Grant Duff has elsewhere assigned India itself as the cause. England is obliged constantly to exercise a strict vigilance for the defence of India, and dare not therefore mix in the politics of Europe, or quarrel with any of its neighbours. And hence it is that her good fame is on the decline. But as even the jackal is said to be the sovereign of a jungly village, so England possesses some influence with a few uncivilized and barbarian nations of Asia. Of this, however, she should rather be ashamed than proud. Especially with India in possession, if England could have become a model of gentlemanliness and liberality, her reputation would have been enhanced, but in this matter also she is not free from fault. We do not of course say that the way in which England treats India has not a tinge of the above qualities, for in several matters the noble treatment by the former finds no parallel during the rule of any other sovereign in India; while it must be admitted that England has not yet treated India in the manner in which the French treat Algiers. And it is because other nations have this impression that the good name of England suffers to some extent.

7. The same paper asks the Lieutenant-Governor to exert his influence to persuade the members of the Indian League to act in harmony with Dr. Sarkar's Science Association Committee. Dr. Sarkar has devoted for a long time past considerable and sustained attention to the subject, and it is but meet that the League should join him rather than that he should join them. The Science Association commands the sympathy of the educated and the intelligent portion of the native community, and His Honor must have doubtless perceived this. He is especially entitled to our gratitude, as evincing an interest in our welfare which no other Governor had ever done before, and we are therefore the more anxious to warn His Honor against creating a party-spirit in his endeavours to mix with us.

8. Adverting to the excessive work and oppression to which laborers who emigrate to Mauritius, Natal, Guiana, and other countries are subjected by their employers, the same paper asks Government to adopt effectual measures for securing their happiness and safety while in the colonies. Moreover, there is no need at present of sending out emigrants to other countries. Government may provide for the increasing population in India itself. Proposals

SOMA PEAKASH,  
February 1st, 1876.

SOMA PEAKASH.

are made for planting colonies of Europeans on the Himalayan valleys, but cannot the poor population of India be also accommodated there?

BARISAL  
VARTAVAHAN,  
February 2nd, 1876.

9. The *Barisal Vártavaha*, of the 2nd February, notices the inconvenience of suitors in Barisal, and the dissatisfaction prevailing among the amlah of the Subordinate Judges' and the Munsifs' courts of that place, owing to the District Judge having ordered that the officer who had hitherto been styled the First Subordinate Judge should be henceforth styled the Second, and the Second, First. The High Court has also recently, without making the necessary inquiries, ordered the abolition of the substantive appointments of a number of amlah of one of the local munsifi courts. Government is besought to attend to the matter and remove all uneasiness and inconvenience.

HINDU RANJIKÁ,  
February 2nd, 1876.

10. The *Hindu Ranjiká*, of the 2nd February, dwells on the importance of securing proper drainage to every village and town in this country. It is now generally believed that the prevalence of malarious fever is in a large measure due to obstructed drainage, and the silting up of rivers and the natural water-courses. So that Government as well as the public should be careful, while making new and high roads all over the country, to provide a sufficient number of culverts for the passage of water.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
February 3rd, 1876.

11. The *Amrita Bázár Patriká*, of the 3rd February, notices and refutes two rumours that have prevailed for the last few days. The first is that Sir Richard Temple is about to retire with Lord Northbrook. The *Mirror* first gave publicity to this rumour, and it has in a manner subsequently received confirmation from the fact that the public have now come to perceive that Lord Northbrook and Sir Richard, as his lieutenant, betrayed considerable indiscretion and gave occasion for extravagant waste in their relief measures during the famine. Both are now ashamed of this, and hence their retirement. The publication of a book at this time known as the "Black Pamphlet," has lent to it additional confirmation. The second rumour imputes to Sir Richard Temple a desire to abolish the Civil Engineering College at Calcutta. The establishment of the college at Cooper's Hill, the growing indifference to the local institution, the efforts of the Lieutenant-Governor to bring about an amalgamation of the Indian League and Dr. Sarkar's Science Association Committee, and lastly, the establishment of four surveying schools, these all have combined to give currency and impart strength to the latter rumour. The editor, however, assures his readers that nothing could be further from the mind of His Honor than the abolition of the Calcutta Civil Engineering College.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA.

12. The same paper asks the public to protest without delay against the objectionable features of the new Municipal Bill, one of which is that a citizen must pay no less than Rs. 100 in rates before he can be nominated as a Justice. This section, if passed, will produce much evil. Under this law every competent person is not eligible to become a Justice.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,  
February 4th, 1876.

13. The *Education Gazette*, of the 4th February, writes the following in connection with the Calcutta Municipal Bill:—The people of this country are manifesting an increasing eagerness for the introduction into it of the elective system of municipal administration. The scheme, as calculated in some measure to teach them self-government, is really important. It was Sir George Campbell who first perceived this. Whatever benefits he may or may not have conferred on us in other matters, he has become entitled to our gratitude by inaugurating the elective system in this country. But though the process of self-government has not yet been fully inaugurated

in any place, still there is hope of its meeting with success in time : and hence it is that we are gratified to see even its germs, and are happy to notice the efforts that are being made for its introduction in Calcutta.

14. After thanking the Lieutenant-Governor for the recent establishment of four surveying schools, and his constant endeavour to provide practical scientific education for natives, the *Grámvártá Prakáshiká*, of the 5th February, remarks :—Surveying, as it is taught among us, may be sufficient for all practical purposes at present, but if the Lieutenant-Governor is really desirous to diffuse a knowledge of manufactures among the people, industrial schools should be set up. The real wants of the country will be removed in this way, and his exertions crowned with success. India will also remain indebted to him for ever.

15. The same paper complains that passengers on the Indian Railways suffer extreme inconvenience from the rudeness of the railway officials. They have one serious grievance. On occasions of festivals, when the concourse is large, many are obliged to travel in fourth class carriages after having paid third class fare. According to the editor, the railway authorities should, in such cases, return the excess fares.

16. The same paper regrets to observe the statement of a contemporary to the effect that it is the habit of the natives to needlessly oppose all taxes, however beneficial they may prove in the end, as was seen when the road cess was first imposed. Greatly opposed at first, it is now paid by the people without the least opposition, and everything in connection with it goes on smoothly. This is an extremely erroneous statement. It is not true that because the cess is quietly and regularly paid it is not felt as a burden, or that there is no discontent in connection with it. The people bear it as they would bear any other tax. Intensely loyal as they are, it is not their habit to have recourse to any violent measure. Government may well mistake their silence for contentment, but it is not the fact. Far different would have been the result if the cess, like the income tax, had affected the Europeans. There would then have been no end of remonstrance and opposition. The abolition of the income tax, in fact, was greatly due to the opposition of the latter. Properly considered, the income tax would be preferable to the road cess to the majority of the native subjects. The editor notices with alarm a rumour to the effect that the rates at which the cess is levied in the districts of Nuddea and Furreedpore, being very low, are shortly to be raised.

17. The *Hindu Hitoishiní*, of the 5th February, observes with sorrow that Lord Northbrook has not been enabled, owing to some of his serious administrative errors, to carry with him the unqualified praise and admiration of India. In the Baroda affair, in his dealings with the Nizam, and in connection with the Tariff Act, his policy has been extremely unpopular. It is said that even the English public have been dissatisfied with the treatment he accorded to the young Nizam of Hyderabad during the Prince's visit, and that the whole correspondence relating to this subject will be produced in Parliament. He may suffer in popularity in England, but that does not inspire us with any hope as to future Viceroys refraining from such acts and such a line of conduct as have brought so much discredit on Lord Northbrook.

18. Adverting to the great importance of gymnastics to Bengali youth, the *Dacca Prakásh*, of the 6th February, notices with regret the general apathy of the wealthy natives, and the erroneous impressions that prevail among them, in reference to the subject. It is also sad to notice

GRAMVARTA  
PRAKASHIKA,  
February 5th, 1876.

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HINDU HITOISHINI,  
February 5th, 1876.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
February 6th, 1876.

how little Government has yet done in the matter, though fully conscious of its importance. The editor beseeches Sir Richard Temple to open gymnastic schools all over the country.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
February 6th, 1876.

19. The same paper dwells in a lengthy editorial on the invidious distinction made by Government between natives and Europeans in all matters. This is especially the case in the matter of appointments to the public service. While large numbers of educated and competent natives are starving for want of employment, illiterate and incompetent Europeans are receiving large salaries in Government offices. The conduct of Government and the railway authorities towards the few native guards in the East Indian Railway line has been most discouraging to the latter, and unworthy of a Government which is so profuse in its professions of liberality and justice.

SAHACHAR,  
February 7th, 1876.

20. The *Sahachar*, of the 7th February, does not see on what grounds the Lieutenant-Governor has thought proper to abolish the normal school at Calcutta and order its amalgamation with that at Hooghly. The wisdom of this measure is very questionable. Such an institution as the Calcutta Normal School is extremely needful for the education of the large number of poor lads who come to the metropolis from the different parts of the mofussil. It should have been placed under the Sanskrit College. An injustice has also been done to Babu Gopál Chandra Bandyopádhyáya, the able and experienced head master of the school, by his transfer to Hooghly on a lower salary than he used to draw at Calcutta. His Honor, however, should not go any further, but allow the Calcutta pathshala to remain where it is. It would be better to place it under the Sanskrit College.

SAHACHAR.

21. The same paper devotes a lengthy leader to the subject of the oppressions of the police. This is due to the fact that the subordinate police officers, the inspectors, deputy inspectors, head constables, and constables, are for the most part uneducated men, with no sense of their duties and obligations. In many cases the indifference of the superior officials also to the faults of their subordinates produces considerable evil. The editor, in conclusion, asks the public to keep a sharp eye over the doings of the police and determine to expose their shortcomings whenever they may happen to notice the same.

SAHACHAR.

22. A correspondent of the same paper, writing from Durbhangá, observes that there will probably be no actual famine this year in that place and adjacent localities, though there will be some distress among the poor people. The chief cause of this poverty is the oppression of the indigo planters, which has compelled many to leave their native villages. It is further suggested that the proposed relief operations will be greatly facilitated by reducing the rates on the Tirhoot State Railway for all the distance between the Barh and Durbhangá stations, and keeping a steamer on the river below Barh for the transport of grain, which may also be considerably assisted by Government providing some three or four thousand bullock carts. The writer fears that his simple and practical suggestions will not be listened to by the authorities, and that there will be a recurrence of that waste, extravagant expenditure, and the employment of the planters in relief operations, which characterized the recent famine.

SAMÁCHÁR  
CHANDRIKA,  
January 31st, 1876.

23. The *Samáchár Chandriká*, of the 31st January, is informed that the income tax is likely to be reimposed shortly, and that Lord Northbrook's retirement has been owing chiefly to this fact. The Secretary of State, remarks the editor, is in favor of this tax, and has sent out Sir L. Mallet to India for the purpose of devising the best means in connection with the matter.

24. The same paper, of the 7th February, is highly gratified to read the Calcutta Municipal Bill, with the provisions for an elective system, as published in the *Gazette*. It is hoped that its defects will be removed on re-consideration.

SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
February 7th, 1876.

25. The *Sambad Purnachandrodaya*, of the 8th February, remarks on the Municipal Bill, that it has produced much dissatisfaction. The people are promised only a nominal self-government, while all real power is vested in the Government and the Chairman. If it is really desired to give the people self-government in municipal affairs, the Bill should be thoroughly amended.

SAMBAD PURNA-  
CHANDRODAYA,  
February 8th, 1876.

26. The same paper, of the 9th February, notices the extreme dissatisfaction of the public at the appointment of Dr. Payne as the Health Officer of Calcutta on Rs. 1,000 a month. This has been done in direct opposition to the views of the independent Justices, who have begun one by one to resign their appointments.

SAMBAD PURNA-  
CHANDRODAYA,  
February 9th, 1876.

27. The *Sambad Prabhakar*, of the 4th February, directs the attention of the postal authorities to the advisability of allowing assistants to the over-worked deputy postmasters of the several branch post offices at Calcutta. The public also are put to considerable inconvenience from most of these offices not receiving parcels, &c., for transmission by post.

SAMBAD PRABHAKAR  
February 4th, 1876.

28. A correspondent, signing himself "A Neighbour," writes as follows to the editor of the *Behar Bandhu*, leaving the editor and readers to guess the person or persons to whom he alludes :—

BEHAR BANDHU,  
February 9th, 1876.

It is well known that a whole school is spoiled by the company of one bad boy; likewise that the bad conduct of a single teacher exercises a baneful influence on the other teachers and pupils. So also will the evil example of one Sub-Inspector spoil both the teachers and pupils of a whole division. Consequently, how pleasant must be the fate of that zillah the Deputy Inspector of which is an adulterer, a follower of evil ways, and a lover of women of the town. The Inspector of Schools of Behar and the Director of Public Instruction will be well able to comprehend this.

The correspondent after this goes on to state that there is a great want of attention displayed by the officers of the Educational Department in Behar, whose only object is to pocket their salaries and see that the school fees are regularly paid in.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

R. J. ELLIS,

*The 12th February 1876.*

*Offg. Government Bengali Translator.*

*List of Native Newspapers received and examined for the Week ending the  
12th February 1876.*

No.	Name.	Place of publication.	Monthly, weekly, or otherwise.	Date.
1	" Rájsháhí Samáchár" ...	Karachmáriá, Rájsháhí ...	Weekly	21st January 1876.
2	" Rungpur Dik Prakásh" ...	Kákiniá, Rungpur ...	Ditto	27th ditto.
3	" Soma Prakásh" ...	Chingripotá, 24-Perghs. ...	Ditto	1st February 1876.
4	" Suhrid" ...	Muktágáchá, Mymensing	Ditto	1st ditto.
5	" Hindu Ranjiká" ...	Boáliyá, Rájsháhí ...	Ditto	2nd ditto.
6	" Barisál Vártávaha" ...	Barisál ...	Ditto	2nd ditto.
7	" Amrita Bázár Patriká" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto	3rd ditto.
8	" Education Gazette" ...	Hughli ...	Ditto	4th ditto.
9	" Grámvártá Prakáshiká" ...	Kumárkháli ...	Ditto	5th ditto.
10	" Hindu Hitoishini" ...	Dacca ...	Ditto	5th ditto.
11	" Dacca Prakásh" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto	6th ditto.
12	" Sahachar" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto	7th ditto.
13	" Sulabha Samáchár" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto	8th ditto.
14	" Samáchár Chandriká" ...	Ditto ...	Bi-Weekly	31st January & 3rd & 7th Feb. 1876.
15	" Sambád Prabhákar" ...	Ditto ...	Daily	29th January to 4th Feb. 1876.
16	" Sambád Púrnachandrodaya"	Ditto ...	Ditto	5th and 7th to 9th Feb. 1876.
17	" Behár Bandhu" (in Hindi)	Patna ...	Weekly	9th February 1876.
18	" Urdu Guide" (in Urdu) ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto	5th ditto.

Bengal Secretariat Press.